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17 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Admiral Turner

STAT FROM:

Special Assistant to the Deputy to the  
DCI for the Intelligence Community

SUBJECT: Comments on Your Questions (attached)

1. Mr. Bush's response to the request to define the CIA Charter is, in fact, a description of the duties of the DCI as derived from the National Security Act of 1947. The Act specifically charged the Agency "to make recommendations to the National Security Council for the coordination of such intelligence activities of the departments and agencies of the Government as relate to the national security."

- In 1963 DCI John McCone established the National Intelligence Programs Evaluation Staff (NIPE) to assist him in Community coordination. The NIPE Staff was small--only 12-15 professionals--and their work was largely of an ad hoc nature.
- Following issuance of the President's memo on "Organization and Management of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Community" in November 1971, the NIPE Staff was enlarged and re-titled the Intelligence Community Staff (ICS). This Staff was given full responsibility for management coordination of the Community.
- Subsequently, in 1973, the previous Board of National Estimates (within CIA) was dis-established by DCI William Colby and replaced with the National Intelligence Officers (NIO) for the purpose of coordinating throughout the Community all substantive intelligence matters.

- Since the creation of the Intelligence Community Staff and the National Intelligence Officers, essentially all Community coordination responsibility of the DCI is carried out by these Staffs. Executive Order 11905 clarifies these coordination responsibilities and is silent on the assignment of such responsibility to CIA except in the areas of counterintelligence (with the FBI) and in the performance of certain services of common concern as directed by the National Security Council, such as monitoring of foreign public radio and television broadcasts and foreign press services, collection of foreign intelligence information from cooperating sources in the United States, acquisition and translation of foreign publications and photographic interpretation.

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2. The National Security Council Intelligence Committee (NSCIC) was created by the President's memo of November 1971. The role of the NSCIC was as described in Mr. Bush's reply. However, the NSCIC never did become a viable organization. Executive Order 11905 assigned essentially the same responsibilities to the National Security Council.

- During its existence, the NSCIC met formally only two or three times and, additionally, accomplished some work through correspondence exchange.
- The NSCIC had a subordinate working group which, despite repeated attempts to stimulate NSCIC activity, never succeeded in fulfilling the assigned role.



Attachment:  
As stated